

**PARENTS ASSOCIATION
BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER
10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD
ST. LOUIS, MO 63137**

PHONE 314-264-9100 or 9101 BHC Switchboard
WEBSITE www.parentsassociationbhc.com



NEWSLETTER MAY 2023

PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

All Parent Association members, friends and staff are invited. Keep up with the latest news about Bellefontaine Habilitation Center. Bring your talents and expertise for our advocacy efforts. With everyone's involvement, the lives of the residents at BHC will be the best possible. All are encouraged to stay informed and take some action. Attend a parents meeting, talk with other families, share your concerns and ideas, write a letter, or make a phone call to help provide a safe, healthy, and supportive environment for the residents of BHC and others. They have no voice but ours, so we must continually speak up for them.

THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS HAVE RESUMED!!!!

MEETING DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023

MEETING TIME: 2:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

2023 MEETING DATES

MAY 21 AUGUST 13 NOVEMBER 12

Meet with Jessica Bax, Director of Department of Developmental Disabilities, and other Department of Mental Health officials at the May 21, 2023 meeting.

The May 21, 2023 meeting of the BHC Parent Association will be an opportunity to have a conversation with Department of Mental Health officials about habilitation center homes of our family members.

Federal Surveyors for Title XIX Medicaid funding will be conducting the annual on-site survey sometime in the next several weeks. This comprehensive survey is not announced ahead time. The campus review is one aspect of oversight for quality care so that residents live in safe, healthy, supportive homes.

Plans for road repair are moving slowly.

Next year in 2024, there will be a BHC 100th year celebration! More information on page 2.

There continues to be a strong, persistent effort to close all congregate care facilities like habilitation centers and to close sheltered workshops, especially by national organizations and federal government agencies. These efforts continue despite the Supreme Court 1999 Olmstead decision, interpreting the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 which states:

“Nothing in the ADA or its implementing regulations condones termination of institutional settings for persons unable to handle or benefit from community settings...Nor is there any federal requirement that community-based treatment be imposed on patients who do not desire it.” Olmstead, at 601 – 602

“It would be unreasonable, it would be a tragic event, then, were the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) to be interpreted so that States had some incentive, for fear of litigation, to drive those in need of medical care and treatment out of appropriate care and into settings with too little assistance and supervision.” *Olmstead*, at 610.

Keep informed. Take action. Mary A. Vitale, President, Bellefontaine Parents Association

TRIBUTE FUND

Celebrate a birthday or anniversary, offer get well wishes or congratulations, remember a loved one by sending in a tribute - support the residents at Bellefontaine Habilitation Center. A few examples of the use of funds are: annual picnic, Christmas gifts and decorations, birthday cakes and presents, holiday decorations, treats and dances, household items, and special programs. The tribute form is on the last page of the newsletter.

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>	<u>OCCASION</u>
Lee & Jacquelyn Kearney		donation
Pat Ball	Wells family	in memory Margaret Meatte (Wells)
Troy Ball	“	“
Mary Bryant	“	“
Liz Debert	“	“
Matt & Anne Giljum	“	“
Andrew & Anita Higginbotham	“	“
Lonnie & Marilyn Iannazzo	“	“
Exquisite Nails	“	“
Vincent Stuart		
Margaret Verzino	“	“
Matt & Tiffany Verzino	“	“
David & Heidi Wiegand	“	“
Barrie & Barbara Stoneburner	Dickey family	in memory of Bud Dickey
Natalie Vitale	“	“



FUNDS APPROVED BY PARENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD

\$1,001.00 Birthday cakes for residents February-July 2023



BHC 100 YEARS CELEBRATION IN 2024

SAVE THE DATE/INVITATION

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND
THE BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

**TO BE HELD JUNE 13, 2024
THERE WILL BE A CEREMONY IN THE GYM BEGINNING AT
11:00 AM, FOLLOWED IMMEDIATLY BY LUNCH.**

COME EARLY TO ENJOY MUSIC BY “MORNING THUNDER”

PLEASE RSVP BY JUNE 30, 2023.

**CONTACT: Bill Heuvelman at 314-264-9140,
or E-MAIL Bill.Heuvelman@dmh.mo.gov**

BHC RESIDENTS ENJOY WINTER/SPRING ACTIVITIES

Thanks to staff for helping residents plan and enjoy a wide variety of activities.

Dietary restrictions were observed for some residents.



ON CAMPUS

February - At the Valentine Party residents enjoyed Strawberry Mousse, Peanut Butter Mousse and cookies, and heart shaped brownies. They also participated in table top activities while listening to great music.

March - The St. Patrick’s Party food included Pistachio Pudding, cupcakes and cookies. St. Patrick activities and dancing filled the party with fun for the residents.

April - Easter Celebrations at BHC offered fun table art activities while residents enjoyed Rice Crispy treats, cupcakes, banana pudding, lemon pudding and cookies.

It is Kite Flying Season and some residents are getting outside exercise as they try to get their kites afloat in the air and persist in keeping them flying.

Several residents have entered artwork for the Director’s Creativity Showcase. All of the art will be displayed at BHC when returned. Sponsored by the Missouri Mental Health Foundation and the Department of Mental Health, the event showcases the talents and abilities of people with mental health challenges.

OFF CAMPUS

Home visits, Church worship, Great Clips, Kiener Plaza, Flea Market

Shopping: Walmart, Five Below, Target, Aldi’s, v-Stock, West County Mall, Family Dollar, Dollar Tree, Goodwill

Out to eat: Steak ‘n Shake, The Kitchen Applebee’s, White Castle, Mc Donald’s Dominoes, KFC, Hardees, Imo’s, Golden Corral, Popeye’s, China King, and Dairy Queen.

BHC ANNUAL FEDERAL SURVEY – OVERSIGHT FOR BHC RESIDENTS

When Federal surveyors for Title 19 of the federal Medicaid law conduct an annual review of the BHC campus there are 8 Conditions of Participation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid that are mandated. These annual federal surveys of habilitation centers must meet these 8 Conditions of Participation:

- 1. Management
- 2. Client Protections
- 3. Facility Staffing
- 4. Active Treatment
- 5. Client Behavior and Facility Practices
- 6. Health Care Services
- 7. Physical Environment
- 8. Dietetic Services



The 8 Conditions of Participation comprise close to 500 specific standards.

In practical terms, a few areas that surveyors assess are: engagement with the residents, privacy being respected, proper food textures, clean environments, good hygiene, appropriate clothing, and active treatment requirements.

Serious deficiencies must be corrected within 90 days; other deficiencies must be corrected within a year.

Failure to correct deficiencies results in loss of certification and loss of Medicaid funding.

PAY RAISES FOR STATE WORKERS

<https://governor.mo.gov/press-releases/archive/governor-parson-signs-hb-14-historic-pay-raises-all-state-team-members-law>

February 27, 2023

Jefferson City — Today, Governor Mike Parson signed House Bill 14 into law. Also referred to as the Fiscal Year 2023 Early Supplemental Bill, HB 14 secures an 8.7 percent cost-of-living pay increase for all state team members and a \$2 per hour shift differential for state congregate care staff.



In January, Governor Parson called on the General Assembly to pass HB 14, which includes much-needed pay increases for state team members. Seeing a turnover rate of nearly 30 percent and more than 7,000 positions open across state government, Governor Parson asked the General Assembly to approve the measure by March 1.

Members of the legislature recognized the unsustainable situation and heeded Governor Parson's call, giving final approval to the legislation on February 22, a full week ahead of his original deadline. State team members will see pay increases reflected in their March 31 paychecks.

NATIONAL SHORTAGE OF DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

The following information highlights some attempts to address the critical national shortage of Direct Support Professionals, who give the hands-on care for daily activities of people with disabilities.

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) of the federal government offers grant.

<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/acl-launches-national-center-strengthen-direct-care-workforce>

“Long-standing workforce shortages have reached crisis levels during the COVID-19 pandemic; today, more than three-quarters of service providers are not accepting new clients and more than half have cut services as a result of the direct care workforce shortage. The high turnover of staff has also meant that individuals who are able to receive services often experience service disruptions and receive inconsistent care.”

The ACL “has awarded a five-year grant totaling over \$6 million to establish a national center to expand and strengthen the direct care workforce across the country.”

The organization, Relias, in partnership with the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), recently released their 2023 DSP Survey Report.

<https://www.relias.com/blog/direct-support-professional-dsp-survey-report>

Some information included in the report states “that high turnover and low retention of direct support professionals (DSPs) continues to be a top-of-mind concern for intellectual and developmental (IDD) providers. For several years now, the national turnover rate for DSPs has lingered around 50%, with some agencies having as many as one-in-eight DSP roles consistently vacant.”

The report suggests some factors to consider for retention of DSPs including:

- Wages
- Appreciation, recognition, and well-being of employees
- Career advancement, training, and growth
- Respectful relationships between administration and employees

NATIONAL SHORTAGE OF DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS, continued

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is trying to build up a well- trained workforce of Direct Care Professionals as highlighted in the following article.

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities has innovative program for direct support professional training

https://dodd.ohio.gov/communication/news/dsp_u

March 20, 2023

Columbus-The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) partnered with the Ohio Department of Education to contract with the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) to offer training to high school students to become Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

“DSP-U is a unique opportunity to spark the next generation of passion for our field and support in-demand jobs,” said DODD Director Kim Hauck. “Partnerships like this are what will help us take our recruitment efforts to the next level.”

OADSP offers the DSP-U program to high school and career/vocational schools and through partnerships with local county boards of developmental disabilities. The program provides opportunities for currently enrolled high school students interested in working with people with developmental disabilities to be better prepared for a career in the field. Students participating in the DSP-U program can earn professional credentials while receiving credit toward high school graduation requirements.

“OADSP is thrilled with this investment in future up-and-coming Direct Support Professionals. This funding provides an unprecedented opportunity to expand DSP-U across Ohio,” Bethany Toledo, OADSP Executive Director, added.

The latest program launched in February at Liberty High School in Montgomery County. Students will be earning credits toward high school graduation while working toward the Certificate of Initial Proficiency credential.

DSP-U offers two types of credentials. The Basic Certificate requires the completion of 10 courses for a total of 30 hours and the Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP) requires the completion of 20 courses for a total of 60 classroom hours, in addition to a minimum of 100 internship hours. The CIP program is paired with enrollment in the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) E-Badge academy. Students in this program earn dual Ohio and national credentials.

Missouri Department of Mental Health has an apprenticeship program for Direct Support Professionals.



In April of 2022, Governor Mike Parson announced that in response to the continuing challenges of accessing an available and skilled workforce, the Department of Mental Health (DMH), Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD), has developed *Missouri Talent Pathways*, an initiative to recruit and retain a highly skilled and dedicated workforce.

The first of its kind in the nation, *Missouri Talent Pathways* was recently approved by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Apprenticeship. *Missouri Talent Pathways* is now a registered apprenticeship program which blends on-the-job mentoring with technical instruction and culminates in participants receiving a certificate as a Certified Direct Support Professional. As a registered apprenticeship intermediary, the Division and its community partners will have access to an expanded applicant pool, traditional workforce development programs, and a career ladder framework for direct support professionals.

The apprenticeship is one way to help stabilize the Direct Support Professional workforce by offering a clear career path.

For more information from the Department of Mental Health go to <https://dmh.mo.gov/dev-disabilities/service-providers/talent-pathways>

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH JOB OPPORTUNITIES

<https://dmh.mo.gov/hr/job-opportunities>

Do you or someone you know have a desire to help people with disabilities live their fullest lives?

Go to the Missouri Department of Mental Health website to find:

- Current DMH Job Openings
- Continuously Open Positions in DMH facilities
- Special Job Listings/Administrative

Do you have questions about a position with the Missouri Department of Mental Health?

If so, text **DMH** to 44844.

VOR NEWS

VOR is a national organization that advocates for high quality care and human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

VOR is our national voice to advocate for our family members.

VOR 2023 Legislative Initiative

Sunday, May 7, 2023 Visit www.vor.net for complete information.

Issues to be presented to U.S. Senators and Representatives will include:

- Improving Safety Standards for People with I/DD and Autism
- Preventing and Reporting Incidents of Abuse and Neglect
- Promoting the Use of Cameras in Common Areas
- Holding Protection and Advocacy Agencies Accountable
- Supporting our Direct Support Professionals

VOR Annual Meeting, 40th Anniversary

June 11, 2023 - 11:30 am - 5:30 pm (Eastern), 10:30 am – 4:30 pm (Central)

VOR’s Annual Members Meeting (again, on Zoom) will take place on Sunday, June 11th. The program will include short presentations from President, Joanne St. Amand, Treasurer, Larry Innis, and Executive Director, Hugo Dwyer. Committee chairs will present reports on their work during the past year. Reports from states will help everyone share problems and solutions for our advocacy efforts.

Speakers for the Annual Meeting include:

- Congressman Glenn Grothman - (R-WI)
- Representative Charlie Meier (Illinois General Assembly)
- Amy S. F. Lutz, PhD.

Registration will open in Mid-Late May. Check registration at www.vor.net

The VOR organization is our national voice on the federal level. Much time and energy are spent on continual education of policymakers about the needs of our family members.

Join the organization **VOR**, our national voice for the rights of our family members. VOR needs your support. Add your voice to VOR advocacy. Become a member or donate at www.vor.net.

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APRIL WAS NATIONAL AUTISM MONTH

AUTISM NEWS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released two new reports on autism https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/ss/ss7202a1.htm?s_cid=ss7202a1_w https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/ss/ss7201a1.htm?s_cid=ss7201a1_w

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released two new reports from the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network on March 24. The reports, Prevalence and Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder Among Children Aged 8 Years and Early Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorder Among Children Aged 4 Years, focus on identifying trends in the demographic makeup of children with autism and how many children with autism are being identified early. Early identification is one of the most important tools to make a difference in the lives of autistic children, leading to better outcomes, and empowering autistic children to access the services and supports that can help them thrive in the community.

Key findings from the reports include:

- The prevalence estimate of autism spectrum disorder has increased since the last report, published in December of 2021. It has increased from 1 in 44 8-year-old children to 1 in 36.
- For the first time, the percentage of 8-year-old Black (2.9%), Hispanic (3.2%) and Asian or Pacific Islander (3.3%) children identified with autism was higher than the percentage of 8-year-old white children identified with autism (2.4%). The report speculates that these shifts may reflect improved screening, awareness, and access to services among historically underserved groups.
- While there have been improvements in early autism identification over time, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted progress. These disruptions in the timely evaluation of children and delays in connecting children to the services and support they need could have long-lasting effects.

Missouri has an Office of Autism to help families find appropriate services for persons diagnosed with some level of autism.
<https://dmh.mo.gov/dev-disabilities/autism>

The Missouri Autism Center Consortium includes:
<https://dmh.mo.gov/dev-disabilities/autism/center-consortium>

MU-Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Phone: 573-882-6081 or 1-888-720-0015

Knights of Columbus Developmental Center

SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center

Phone: 314-577-5609

Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinics Developmental and Behavioral Sciences

Phone: 816-234-3674

Southeast Missouri State University Autism Center for Diagnosis and Treatment

Phone: (573) 986-4985

Washington University Autism Clinical Center

Phone: 314-286-1700

Mercy Kids Autism Center

Phone: 314-872-3345

National Council on Severe Autism

<https://www.ncsautism.org/>

This national organization advocates especially for people with severe autism.

“We are committed to improving the long-term welfare of individuals, families and caregivers affected by severe forms of autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders. To that end, we:

- **Educate the public** about these disabilities, and how they require special attention and services.
- **Provide a platform** for think tanks and serious discourse addressing policy and services.

- **Educate policy makers** about the impact of legislation and policy on our vulnerable, growing, and often overshadowed population.
- **Promote research** into therapeutics, neurobiology, and causes of severe forms of autism and related disabilities.
- **Promote acceptance and awareness** of individuals, families, and caregivers affected by severe forms of autism by giving voice to their realities and needs.”

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TRIBUTE FUND FORM (please print)

ENCLOSED CONTRIBUTION _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

ON THE OCCASION OF _____

PLEASE SEND TO (name) _____

(address) _____

FROM (name) _____

(address) _____

MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO “BHC Parents Association”

MAIL TO: PARENTS ASSOCIATION 10695 BELLEFONTAINE ROAD ST LOUIS MO 63137

THE HIDDEN TREASURE SHOP

CLOSED AT THIS TIME!!!

**PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.
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 ST. LOUIS MO 63137**

**FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
 CORRECTION REQUESTED**

